PRICE ONE CENT

FRENCH TAKE TRENCHES OF FOE BY DRIVE OF INFANTRY

Allies' Furious Bayonet Charge Wins Advanced Positions in Argonne - Counter Attacks Between Lys and Aisne Thrown Back After Terrific Battle.

Fleets Bombard German Coast Defenses, as Land Forces Push Forward Toward Ostend - Paris Claims Gains Along Entire Battle Front From Sea to Alsace.

Progress along virtually the entire battle front, from the sea to Alsace, is claimed in the French official communique issued this afternoon. German trenches in the Argonne have been taken at the point of the bayonet, while between the Lys and the Aisne, where the invaders have made furious counter attacks, this offensive movement has been repulsed.

Although the official statement says that the battle near the coast is confined largely to cannonading, unofficial reports indicate that the Allies are making progress in their advance toward Ostend. Rumors of the evacuation of that port by the Germans lack confirmation, but it is known that the German shore positions are suffering heavily from the fire of the Allied fleet, which is co-operating with

the land forces. French attacks near Albert, Compiegne, Soulin and Perthes and British attacks at Festubert Gwenchy have been repulsed, it is officially an- most forward point in the Warsaw nounced in Berlin. The Germans also advance, are furiously but vainly claim the capture of French trenches striving to force an opening in the in the Argonne,

German forces, held at bay on the left bank of the Bsura River at their

THE WEATHER



Noel! Noel! Christmas is near. Nosi! Nos!! The weather is clear,

"Twas the night before Christman." But wait! We must write These lines on the weather. "Twill be colder tonight.

And you probably thought yesterday

was the shortest of the year. Well, it Today ts. FORECAST

For Philadelphia and vicinity-Generally fair today. Clear and calder tonight.

Observations at Philadelphia

For details, see page 2.

Almanac of the Day

Lamps to Be Lighted

The Tides POST BECHMONY

and other webbies 6186 p. m. HESTNUT STREET WHARF MEEDY BELAND MERANNAVER

SKATING TODAY

OFFICIAL WAR REPORTS

FRENCH

Between the sea and the Lys nothing happened during the day of December II except artillery conflicts.

Between the Lys and the Aisne we rolled back a German attack which tried to debouch from Carency and we took some houses at Blangy, An attack by the enemy upon Mamets and neighboring trenches were not permitted by our troops to make any appreciable progress from that side. In mitted by our troops to make any appreciable progress from that side. In this region of Libons three attacks by the enemy have been repulsed. We have made a slight gain to the east and to the west of Tracy-le-Val. Our artillery successfully shelled the plateau of Nouvron.

In the sectors of the Aisne and of Rheims there were artillery conflicts. In the Champagne region and in the Argonne around Souain there were violent bayonet combats. We have made appreciable progress in that region.

We captured in the environs of Perthes-le Hurlus three German works representing a front of 1500 yards of trenches. To the northeast of Beau-sejour, we fortified the position taken on December 20, and occupied all the trenches which border upon the sum-

mit of Calvaire.

In the forest of Grurie our progress continues. At St. Hubert we repulsed an attack. In the Bolants forest, where some ground had been lost, we

retook the two tiers of trenches.

Between the Argonne and the Meuse we advanced slightly to the environs of Vauquois. To the north of the of Vauquois. To the north of the forest of Malaucourt our troops succeeded in crossing a wire entanglement and in capturing some trenches, where the enemy has held its position on the right bank of the Meuse.

GERMAN

GERMAN

At Nieuport and around Ypres it was generally quiet yesterday. In the region around Richebourg the Allies succeeded in obtaining a firm foothold in their old position. Yesterday's attacks by the French in the neighborhood of Albert, northeast of Complegne, near Soulin and Perthes, were repulsed with heavy loss.

Ordered to recapture positions lost Monday at Festubert and Gwenchy, the English, reinforced by French territorial forces, made desperate attacks yesterday and during the night, but all were repulsed.

In the western part of the Argonne forest, we captured a few French trenches. In the eastern part, northwest of Verdun, French attacks against our lines were repulsed with heavy losses to the French.

In the eastern theatre of war the situation is unchanged in East Prussia. In Poland our troops are engaged in a fierce battle for branches of the Baura and Rawka Rivers. In many places crossings over these branches have already been won. On the right bank of the Giliza (Pilica) the battle continues.

RUSSIAN

In the region of Miawa, north of the Vistula, the Germans have fallen back toward the line of Lautenburg-Niedenburg, across the frentier, into East Prussia.

Prussia.

In Galleis the Austrian offensive is being greatly hindered by our troops, and the operations in this region have taken on a character immediately favorable to us. One of the Austrian divisions which was operating in the vicinity of Dukla Pass was easily defeated by a bayonet charge made by our troops. The enemy left on the battlefield 500 killed and we captured 10 officers and more than 1000 soldiers.

Russian line of defense. The Czar's hosts again have straightened their lines and are moving forward slowly but definitely, repeating the history of the first German invasion by rolling the foe's legions back to his own borders. Furious battle rages for the

sian fleet.

Russian successes in minor Armenian engagements are reported from Petrograd.

GERMAN TRENCHES CARRIED BY ALLIES' BAYONET CHARGE

New Positions Gained as Advance Is Pushed on Entire Front.

PARIS, Dec. 22. Driving the Germans from tranches in the Argonna at the point of the bayonet and taking up new positions in northern France and Belgium on the western and of the battle line, the official community, issued from the War Office today, reports new progress along virtually the entire battle line on which the Ailles' offensive in being conducted.

in being conducted.

In Belgium the action yesterday was marked by heavy camonading. The Germans mitempted an offensive movement between the Lys and the Alams, but were required. About Curency, Manuelge and Liftons, where violent fighting has been in progress for the last few days, gains were made by the Franch at savaral solution.

it is reported that Cubund is being bour the properties that therean is being bourged by the Angle-French artillery, but spe is no confirmation of the runner that a Alber have entered the city. Calend as already fortified by the Germans, debry measure a great quantity of artilly to detend the city. "MILLION DOLLAR BRIDE" ON WAY TO COURT



Mrs. Keith Donaldson, who was divorced three years ago, appeared before Magistrate Beaton today to press charges of assault against her mother-in-law, Mrs. William F. Donaldson, and her maid, Fannie Blanc. The younger Mrs. Donaldson asserts she was attacked when she called to see her 7-year-old daughter. She is accompanied by her attorney, John R. K. Scott.

PROHIBITION VOTE IN HOUSE TONIGHT IS KEENLY AWAITED

Question of State Rights Ex-

line of attack by pointing out that the resolution does not prevent manufacture for personal use, but merely for sale. Under such circumstances, they argued, the measure merely opens the liquor business to a wider scope without taxation. In presenting the rule Representative Henry, of Texas, declared he intended to vote for the adoption of the rule, but that he was opposed to the Hobson resolution. He was followed by Representative Campbell, of Kansda, who urged the passage of both the rule and the resolution. Representative Cantrill, of Kentucky, opresentative Cantrill, of Kentucky, op-posed the resolution on the ground that prohibition was a State instead of a

national question. KELLYS SPEECH APPLAUDED. Representative Kelly, of Pennsylvania, arged the adoption of the Hobson amendpent. His speech was so loudly applauded by the anti-salosa workers who crowded the galleries that Speaker Clark warned the galleries against making demonstrations in approval of the

apauther. "The rules of the House forbid demon-alrations sinks of approval or dissent," declared Speaker Clark, "and they must coses. The House is here for the trans-action of bismeas and not far a show." Begressulative indexes, suther of the

MRS. DONALDSON'S HEARING POSTPONED TO NEXT WEEK

Attorneys Agree to Have Case Go Over Until Next Tuesday.

The hearing of Mrs. William F. Donaldson, 2003 Chestnut street, and her French maid, Miss Fanny Blanc, on a charge of assault and battery brought by Mrs. Evelyn Donaldson, was postponed today by Magistrate Beaton.

Neither Mrs. W. F. Donaldson nor her

borders. Furious battle rages for the possession of Sochaczew, 30 miles west of Warsaw. In the far north of Poland the Germans have been forced across the East Prussian frontier, while in the extreme south pressure has been increased at Przemysl and in the Cracow advance. Russian and Austro-German armies, numbering more than 800,000 men, are arrayed against each other in Galicia along an east and west front of more than 100 miles. Austrian initiative for the relief of Przemysl has precipitated a sanguinary battle, in which infantry forces are mainly engaged as the territory is too difficult for cavalry movements or artillery duels.

Reports from London say a gigantic force of territorials is massed at the Pyramids, in Egypt, to meet the Turkish invasion. Turkish troops, it is reported, continue to be transported across the Black Sea toward San Beet.

Success a foregone conclusion members as a possible for the merits of the resolution appeared foregone this after.

Success a foregone conclusion members for the possable to settle it out of court. The possible to settle it out of court will show whether the House, by two-movements or artillery duels.

Reports from London say a gigantic force of territorials is massed at the Pyramids, in Egypt, to meet the Turkish invasion. Turkish troops, it is reported, continue to be transported across the Black Sea toward Ratum, unmolested by the Russian fleet.

Sucral success a foregone conclusion members as wept into diagnosism of the merits of the resolution lindif.

Savaral success a foregone conclusion members of the merits of the resolution lindif.

Savaral success a general an unswerted proficts and not her merits of the resolution lindif.

of the resolution itself.

Several speakers opened an unexpected line of attack by pointing out that the resolution does not prevent manufacture for personal use, but merely for sale. Under such circumstances, they argued the measure merely opens the liquor business to a wider scope without taxation. In presenting the rule Representative months of Teases declared by intended to the was arrested when she called for her daughter. her daughter.

"Billy" Sunday Page

Page 6 in today's Evening Ladger is devoted to the whirlwind evangelist and his coming campaign in Philadelphia. The life and work of Mr. Sunday and the elaborate plans for the local revival are told in interesting articles. Pictures of Mr. and Mrs. Sunday and some of the leaders in the movement.

Boy Scouts' Activities

Today's Evening Ledger inaugu-rates a new department to be de-voted to the interests of the Boy Scouts in Philadelphia. All ac-tivities of the men-building organi-actions in this section will be re-ported in this department, which will be retuted on Tuesdays and will be proted on Tuesdays and Fridays of each week. Get acquainted with both these big features in the

Evening Lodger Today

REMOVAL OF STATE **COMMISSION PUT** UP TO GOVERNOR

Commuters and Business Men Ask Executive to Demand Answer From Body to Eleven Specific Charges

Governor Tener, up to 2 o'clock this afternoon, had not received any communication from Edward M. Abbott, of Philadelphia, counsel for the commuters, asking the Governor to investigate the charges that the Public Service Commission conferred with railroad officials and agreed upon passenger rates prior to the Philadelphia hearings.

Mr. Abbott gave the commission until midnight last night to answer a series of questions he asked, but as the commission as a body has not been notified officially of the receipt of the questions and will not meet here until January 8, no action was taken.

Eleven distinct specifications, charging the members of the Pennsylvania Public Service Commission with "Inefficiency, neglect of duty and misconduct in office" in the matter of the recent passenger rate nerease hearing, were sent to Governor Tener this afternoon by counsel representing the combined committee of the United Business Men's Association and the Commuters' Association

The petition calls upon Governor Tener to aummon the Commissiners immedistely and require them to show cause why they should not be removed from office on the basis of the charges preferred. The Commissioners named in the complaint are Samuel W. Pennypacker, Emory R. Johnson, Milton J. Brecht, S. Larue Tone, Charles Frederick Wright and Frank M. Wallace. The complaint was signed by Edwin M. Abbott, William T. Cooper and Mutthew Randall.

THE SPECIFICATIONS. I. That the numbers of the Public Survice Commission failed to comply with the requirements of Section 1, Article & of the act of July 28th, 1912, which requires that "all hearings before the commission or before any commissioner shall be public," in that they did great other than public hearings to the Pennsylvania Railroad Company, the Pathadatchia and Bending Bailway Company and the Mat-timure and Ohio Railroad Company, or their representatives in te preposed in-crease in passenger fares and charges in passenger tariffs, nourplaint docket 425. 2. That surmed for the completenate with agree multiply of any translange held

SHORTEST DAY WITH US

Sun Farther South Than Any Other Time in 1914.

The dividends are looming large in firms supplying light.

And those who pay the bille today brush off a furtive tear;

Today the sun is far away, he will not come up north to play.

This is the shortest little day of all the livelong year.

Today is the shortest of the 365 of 1914, and accordingly the best for the electric gas and oil companies. Light today is at a premium. The sun will be farthest south than any other day in the year.

Householders who keep a daily account of gas, electric or oil consumption may not be able to note the difference, but it is there. From now on, however, Philadelphia may look for more light on everything, as the sun started its journey back at 11:27 o'clock this morning. Just because it is generally supposed that

December 21 has first claim on the shortest day honors does not make it so. The experts at the Naval Observatory, at Washington, are responsible for the change in the day. Those gentlemen are not more respectors of dates than they are of persons. Every four years they explain the year's shortest day falls a day late.

So that means, in spite of the zero weather of a few days ago and the ley

streets of yesterday morning, it did not become winter until this morning. The old. gentleman made his annual debut at II:15 this morning to the minute.

EX-DIRECTOR CLAY AGAIN WILL FACE FRAUD CHARGE

Once Convicted With Two Others of Conspiracy.

Henry Clay, ex-Director of Public Safe-ty, once convicted of conspiracy to de-fraud the city, but granted a new triel by the Superior Court, will face a jury for the second time next March, accord-ing to the plans of District Attorney Roten.

Roten.

The second trial of Clay and his codefendants, John R. Wiggins and Willard
H. Walls, of the contract firm of John
R. Wiggins & Co., will begin Monday,
March 1, 1915, in Room 653. It is not yet
known what judge will preside at the
trial, although a judge from Common
Pleas Court No. 4 is scheduled to sit
in Room 653 of the Criminal Court during the March term. The members of
No. 4 court are Judges Willson, Audenried and Carr.
On February 1, 1913, ex-Director Clay.

ried and Carr.
On February 1, 1913, ex-Director Clay, Wiggins and Walls were convicted of conspiracy to defraud the city of thousands of dollars on contracts for the erection of municipal buildings. Carl Zilensiger, city srchitect, was ecquitted. Clay and the contractors each were sentenced by Judge Staples to an indefinite term of not less than 18 months nor more than two years in the Eastern nor more than two years in the Eastern Penitentiary and a fine of \$500. An ap-peal to the higher court for another

Assistant District Attorney Taulane, who conducted the first trial, also will have charge of the coming prosecution. Hs has been engaged several weeks in preparing the Commonwealth's case.

BURGLAR KILLS RICH MAN AND WOUNDS HIS SON

Daughter Comes to Rescue and Battle

in Dark Ensues. LOS ANGELES, Dec. 22.-W. M. Alexander, a wealthy retired attorney of this city, was shot and killed by a burglar early today in his palatial home in Wil-

shire place. In the revolver duel in the dark between the burglar and the capitalist's son, William Alexander, Jr., immediately after the murder of the father, the son received two bullet wounds.

Mr. Alexander's youngest daughter, Penelope, went to her brother's assistance and the two fought with the thug as he fled down the stairs and escaped, leaving a trail of blood.

NORSE STEAMSHIP STRIKES MINE OFF SCARBOROUGH

Another Victim of German Raid. Eight of Crew Saved.

FILEY, Eng., Dec. 22.—The Norwegian teamer Boston, bound from Oran to London, with a cargo of timber, struck a mine off Scarborough today. It was beached near Filey, where eight men of her crew were landed.

EX-SENATOR WEST DIES

Georgian, Who Succeeded Bacon, Victim of Heart Disease. VALDOSTA, Ga., Dec. 22. - Former

United States Senator W. S. West died suddenly today of heart disease.

TRIAL OF COPE POSTPONED

Slayer of Niece Will Face Charge in Court Next March.

John Cope, of Buckingham, Bucks County, arrested in this city by detectives on the charge of murdering his niece, Florence Cope, will not be brought to trial until the March term of the Bucks County Criminal Court, owing to congestion of the criminal calendar of the court, according to an announcement made by District Attorney Boyer, of Wales County.

hanks County.

Cope late in September, shot and ailed his cloca, a student in a business college in this city. The shooting occurred at the home of the girl. Cope who had been drishing previous to the murder, is alleged to have leveled a shotsum at the girl's mother and assessment that he was going to kill her. The girl ran to aid har mother, it is declared, said in the scottin, that followed was shot and authorized.

Policeman Shot by "Bad Man" OSMININO, M. Y. Den M. While try-ag to arrest James Bresso, a Nagro known as a 'bad sean,' Bellosman Frank utalty wouldn't tulky.

STARVE ALBION. GERMAN NAVAL CHIEF'S THREAT

Admiral von Tirpitz Declares Kaiser Has Right to Wage Submarine War on Allies' Shipping.

American Navy Among Best of Nations and Fulfills Mission, He Declares in Exclusive Interview-Blames Britain for

(Copyright in Great Britain.)
By KARL H. VON WIEGAND GRAND GENERAL HEADQUARTERS OF KAISER, in France, Dec. 2, by way of The Hague to New York, Dec. 22 (delayed for official vise by General Staff).

"America has not raised its voice in protest and has taken little or no action. against England's closing of the North Sea to neutral shipping. What will America say if Germany declares submarine war on all enemy merchant ships?"

Grand Admiral von Tirpits, Minister of Marine, regarded the strongest man in the German Government, and possible next Imperial Chancellor, and whose marvelous organizing genius is largely responsible for Germany's fleet, peered sharply at me as he leaned forward and out the question to me in the first interview he has ever granted an American correspondent.

"Why not?" he continued. "England wants to starve us! We can play the same game. We can bottle it up and torpedo every English or Allies' ship which nears any harbor in Great Britain, thereby cutting off large food supplies." Admiral von Tirpitz slowly repeated the

first question WHAT WOULD U. S. SAY? "What would America say? Would not

such action be only meting out to England what it is doing to us? Yes!" After several days at the Crown Prince's headquarters, and in the Argonnes, I had motored to the Kalser's field capital in France, where all the minintries and departments of the German Government are now located. (Note: Since this intreview most of the General Staff returned to Berlin, owing to the

Kalser's Illness.) For once departing from his rigid rule not to talk with newspaper men, Admiral von Tirpits received me in a privi who fled before the German advance, and on the door of which was a cardboard

sign, "Marine Department." Mentally and physically, von Tirpits is a magnificent Teuton. He has a mind of steel trap order, is a marvelous or-ganizer and has more Bismarckian force and iron in his nature than any other German official I have met. He imme-diately plunged into an analysis of his view of the causes that led to the war, and traced the growth of sea and world power developed by England until, as he put it, "the domineering arrogance of the British calminated in the present war. the British culminated in the present war which England engineered in order to crush the natural growth and development of the power of the German England

GERMANY FOR PEACE.

GERMANY FOR PEACE.

"Britain's domination of the sea," he declared, "was originally founded on piracy, while its power on land was established by robbery in all parts of the world. Engiand and England alons is responsible for this war. Did Germany want anything? Did Germany make any demands on any one? Did Germany have any quarrel with any one? Not it only wanted to be let alone to continue her peaceful growth of development."

ment,"
"England's anti-Germany policy dapen back as far as 1879, after our victory over France," continued the Minjater, "Always diotatorial and domineering, is didn't want Germany to expand commercially or to take the place in the world to which its power entitled it.
"England is imparital. It will cut any one's throat who gets in its way. England has no white man's sortuples. The alliance with Japan shows that. It will form an alliance with any one, regard. Ex-Senator West was appointed by Governor Siaton to fill the unexpired term of the late Senator A. O. Bacon, when the late Senator A. O. Bacon, when the later died last year. His term expired November 3. He was succeeded by Thomas W. Hardwick.

TRIAL OF COPE POSTRONED

Concluded on Page Two

LOST AND FOUND